



NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 3, 2006

District: District 12 - Irvine

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction to begin on Middle Ortega Highway Project

April 5 Start Date for State Route 74 Safety Project

IRVINE, CA--The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces the start of construction of an 8-mile section of Ortega Highway (State Route 74) in Orange County, beginning April 5, 2006.

Motorist safety is Caltrans' number one priority. A number of improvements are planned that will enhance motorists safety while traveling on State Route 74, including:

- ? Adding shoulders where conditions allow to provide more recovery area
- ? Enhancing centerline striping with noise strips
- ? Improving the reflectivity on signage
- ? Improving drainage
- ? Replacing metal guard rails where needed

The \$3.8 million State funded project is projected to last 65 working days. To expedite the project's completion, construction crews will be on the Ortega Highway seven days a week. Construction activity will be confined to night work; beginning April 10, 2006 between the hours of 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Friday and 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.

The 8-mile closure begins at Christianitos Road and ends at the San Juan Creek Bridge in Orange County. Changeable message signs to alert motorists to the closures will be placed at Antonio Parkway/La Pata Avenue in the City of San Juan Capistrano in Orange County and at Grand Avenue in the City of Lake Elsinore in Riverside County.

Motorists, who live and work within the eight-mile construction area, will be allowed access into the area. All others will need to use the following alternate routes:

From Riverside County (Westbound Direction):

- ? N/B I-15 Diversion: N/B I-15 TO W/B 91 TO S/B 55 TO S/B I-5 TO SR-74.
- ? S/B I-15 Diversion: S/B I-15 TO W/B 76 OR 78 TO N/B 5 TO SR-74.

From Orange County (Eastbound Direction):

- ? N/B I-5 Diversion: N/B I-5 TO N/B 55 TO E/B 91 TO S/B 15 TO SR-74.
- ? S/B I-5 Diversion: S/B I-5 TO E/B 76 OR 78 TO N/B I-15 TO SR-74.

****CALTRANS ENCOURAGES MOTORISTS TO PLAN AHEAD AND TO EXPECT TRAVEL DELAYS.**

For information about this project or any other highway project in Orange County, contact the Transportation Helpline at (800) 724-0353, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Individuals who require special accommodations must contact the Transportation Helpline at (800) 724-0353 three days prior to the scheduled meeting date. TDD users may contact the California Relay Service at (800) 735-2929.

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